

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

/052 W

-----220702Z 006639 /23 10

R 220015Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9847

INFO AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

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EO 11652 : N/A

TAGS : EAGR EALR MX

SUBJ : RUST THREATENS SONORA WHEAT CROP

1. SONORA'S WHEAT FARMERS ALREADY PLAGUED BY LAND INVASIONS, EXPROPRIATIONS AND SCARCE WATER SUPPLIES ARE NOW FACED WITH A PARTICULARLY SEVERE AND WIDESPREAD CASE OF (LEAF) RUST DISEASE. ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES, FRANCISCO MERINO RABAGO, SOME 100,000 HECTARES OF WHEAT ARE AFFECTED BY RUST (CHAHUISTLE) WHICH, IF NOT RAPIDLY CONTROLLED, WILL ENDANGER THE CROP.

2. THE SECRETARY ATTRIBUTED THE OUTBREAK TO UNSEASONAL RAINS (HURRICANE LIZA) WHICH FORCED FARMERS TO PREPARE LANDS LATER THAN USUAL, AND FAILURE TO PLOW UP STUBBLE FIELDS LAST SPRING (DUE TO DROUGHT) WHICH KEPT DISEASE SPORES ALIVE IN THE FIELD. HE ALSO STATED THAT ACREAGE PLANTED HAD DECLINED TO 255,000 HECTARES FROM NORMAL 377,000 QUOTE DUE TO DECISION TO PLANT COTTON ON REMAINING LANDS FOR WORLD MARKET END QUOTE. THE SECRETARY CAREFULLY AVOIDED MENTION OF LAND TENURE PROBLEM WHICH WAS PRIMARY CONTRIBUTOR TO REDUCED ACREAGE AND DELAYED PLANTINGS.

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3. CIMMYT SOURCES CONFIRM THAT RUST DAMAGE IS UNUSUALLY WIDESPREAD PARTICULARLY IN JUPATECO AND VARIETY WHICH APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN SO SUSCEPTIBLE IN PAST. OTHER VARIETIES ARE SHOWING MUCH BETTER RESISTANCE AND OVERALL DAMAGE MAY BE SLIGHT IF EFFECTIVE FUNGICIDES ARE APPLIED PROMPTLY.

4. TRADE SOURCE REPORTS SOME 500,000 TONS MAY BE LOST. FUNGICIDE

CALLED INDAR HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN OTHER COUNTRIES BUT HAS NOT BEEN TRIED IN MEXICO.

5. DESPITE OFFICIAL DENIALS, AGATT ESTIMATES WHEAT IMPORTS OF AT LEAST 500,000 TONS WILL BE NEEDED DUE TO REDUCED PLANTINGS NOTED PARA 2. YIELDS ARE LIKELY TO BE REDUCED FURTHER BY RUST AND OTHER PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DELAYED PLANTINGS. TOTAL IMPORTS FOR 1977-78 MARKETING YEAR APPEAR LIKELY TO BE 500,000-1,000,000 TONS, COMPARED WITH SELF-SUFFICIENCY PAST TWO SEASONS. GOM SOURCES CLAIM CURRENT STOCKS OF 700,000 TONS WILL BE SUFFICIENT BUT WE FEEL THESE WILL LARGELY BE USED UP BY JUNE 1.  
THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WHEAT, CROP DESTRUCTION, FIELD CROPS, DISEASES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MEXICO00819  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770024-0049  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** f4c0b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009